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UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Report of the Administrator

Cooperation between the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and the United Nations Development Programme

SUMMARY

This document contains the Administrator's response to decision 91/38 of 25 June 1991, in which the Governing Council requested the Administrator, in close association with the Secretary-General, to initiate a study on options for closer cooperation between the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and the United Nations Development Programme.

The Administrator reports that such a study was undertaken but its conclusions have been overtaken by the subsequent restructuring within the United Nations. Under the circumstances, the Administrator considers that in-depth consideration by the Governing Council of the issue of closer cooperation should be postponed until the new Department for Economic and Social Development is fully established.

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1. In decision 91/38 of 25 June 1991, the Governing Council requested the Administrator "in close association with the Secretary-General, to initiate a study, which may include inputs by an external consultant, on all options of closer cooperation between the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and the United Nations Development Programme, and to report to the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session (1992) on the results thereof".

2. The Administrator, in close consultation with the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, engaged two consultants who conducted a study between November 1991 and January 1992 on closer cooperation between the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and UNDP. 1/ Copies of the consultants' report have been circulated to Member States.

3. On 6 February 1992, soon after this study was completed, the Secretary-General announced a major reorganization of the economic and social departments and units of the Secretariat. He announced the formation of a new Department of Economic and Social Development, effective 1 March 1992. The new Department consolidates the mandates, functions and programmes of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development.

4. At the time of writing, this reorganization was still in progress. In light of the major restructuring that is being undertaken, the Administrator, in consultation with the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Economic and Social Development, has decided that only the present brief report should be submitted to the Governing Council at this time. Since the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development ceased to exist on 1 March 1992, and the new Department for Economic and Social Development is concentrating and strengthening the capabilities of the United Nations in its substantive areas of responsibility and is in the process of reorganization, it is therefore the view of the Administrator that it would be premature to examine the conclusions of the consultants' report, which have been overtaken by this major restructuring within the United Nations.

5. While certain elements of the consultants' report may continue to have validity, the Administrator believes it prudent, under the circumstances, to postpone in-depth consideration by the Governing Council of the issue of closer cooperation between the new United Nations Department for Economic and Social Development and UNDP until the new Department is fully established. In the interim, the Administrator has intensified regular consultations with the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Development

regarding strengthening cooperation between the two organizations. Contacts are also being strengthened at the working level.

Notes

1/ The report of the consultants, in English only, has been circulated to members of the Governing Council. Additional copies are available on request.